



Paul R. LePage
Governor, State of Maine

Paul K. Vestal, Chair
Edwin P. Chester, Esq. Vice Chair

Maine Juvenile Justice Advisory Group

MINUTES
January 25, 2012

I. Roll Call:

Present: Mark Boger, Richard Brown, Ned Chester, Dalene Dutton, Jim Foss, Denise Giles, Jacinda Goodwin, Margaret Longworth, Hannah McMullen, Dan Nichols, Doug Patrick, Jonathan Shapiro, Barry Stoodley, Christine Thibeault, Paul Vestal, and Patrick Walsh

Absent: Abigail Comee-McCourt, Jamie Johnson, Charles LaVerdiere, Randall Liberty, and Joan McDonald

Staff: Kathryn McGloin, Juvenile Justice Specialist; Ryan Andersen, Compliance Monitor; Emma Burke, Staff Assistant; Noël Bonam, DMC Coordinator

Paul Vestal, JJAG Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM and welcomed JJAG members and guests. Paul then asked members to introduce themselves.

II. Minutes:

The minutes for the December 2011 JJAG meeting were approved.

Motion: To approve the December 7, 2011 Minutes

Moved: Patrick/Doug seconded

Action: Approved (unanimous)

III. Chair Report – Paul Vestal, Jr.:

Paul announced that the presentation by James Payne from the Annie E. Casey Foundation had been canceled, and that James would be visiting the JJAG and giving his presentation another time.

Paul then announced that there are a number of legislative items up for discussion, and that there have also been significant funding cuts at the federal level, such as the Title V grants, which have been reallocated for tribal youth programs. He also shared that the JJAG received a letter from OJJDP saying that the JJAG is in compliance with the Act and doing their job well.

IV. Juvenile Justice Specialist Report – Kathryn McGloin:

Kathryn announced that a problem had arisen with awarding Penquis CAP. The CFO of Penquis CAP wanted the Maine Auditing & Accounting Principles (MAAP) language removed from Article XIV of the general State of Maine contract. Kathryn has suggested a solution of leaving the language the same in

Rider B of Article XIV, and making an adjustment in Rider C to ease his mind. Kathryn is waiting for a response from the CFO of Penquis CAP. Christine then asked how much funding the JJAG had allocated at that point for Penquis CAP, and Kathryn replied \$69,169, out of Delinquency Prevention funds.

Kathryn then directed members to their meeting documents, where they would find a letter from Dr. Ross Green outlining his plans for the CPS project for the coming year. Kathryn reminded the members that there are 14 schools currently involved with the project, and that Dr. Green takes no money for himself, only to fund his staff and training time.

Sgt. Shapiro asked, after reviewing the letter from Dr. Green, what police department he had been collaborating with. Kathryn said that she could not remember at that moment, but would get back to Sgt. Shapiro as soon as possible.

Kathryn shared with the group what schools are currently involved with the CPS project, and at a few of the schools every single teacher was using CPS. Kathryn also said that some of the school departments are funding more of the activities than had been originally planned.

Motion: To continue CPS funding

Moved: Sgt. Shapiro/Christine seconded

Action: Approved w/ one abstention (Barry Stoodley – DOC employee)

Barry then mentioned he has had several meetings with state executives in which it appears CPS is becoming more popular as a possible solution to numerous suspensions and expulsions within schools.

Kathryn then announced that it is time for the Three-Year Comprehensive Plan to be rewritten for the period 2012 through 2014, and that it would be an upcoming and ongoing project. Christine then asked how the Three-Year Plan should be undertaken given the amount of budget cuts and possible future budget cuts.

Kathryn suggested that they use the Three-Year Plan as an opportunity to show how much Maine is going to be affected by the cuts and also draft a plan reasonable to the current budget constraints. Kathryn said the JJAG is looking at hundreds of thousands of dollars of cuts, and there would soon be a clearer picture of the funds that would actually be made available to them.

Kathryn also advised that the website is currently undergoing an update.

V. Compliance Monitor Report – Ryan Andersen

Ryan stated that he has been updating the Compliance Monitor Policy and Procedure Manual, and that it needs to be reviewed annually. He said that he

has had to do a lot of revising to tailor it more specifically to Maine and Maine statutes. Ryan said he has found at least one statute discrepancy between Maine statute and OJJDP regulations regarding his inspection authority, but isn't highly concerned with it at this point, and will be looking for a solution in the near future.

Christine suggested proposing a change to the statute during next year's legislative session under a department bill as possibly the simplest solution.

Kathryn asked Ryan to remind the group of the three core protections of the Act for which he is responsible. Ryan explained them as: deinstitutionalization of status offenders; jail removal; and sight and sound separation.

VI. DMC Coordinator Report – Noël Bonam and Ned Chester

Noël reminded the group of the priority areas the Youth Advisory Council at Long Creek Youth Development Center had decided to focus upon at their previous strategic planning meetings in November and December. They are: to increase the number of diversions, increase family engagement, and develop effective communication with the community. Noël reported that the work groups assigned to each topic have been hard at work, and that the group focused on diversions decided that their major obstacle was uninformed parents, and that the idea of cultural liaisons and/or mediators to address language and cultural barriers had been discussed as possible solutions. Another possible solution that was discussed was greater partnership and collaboration amongst service providers.

Noël also reported that there were many concerns about the Notice of Interview letter that is sent out to parents/guardians and how it is worded, and that it isn't offered in other languages. This group has met several times to rework the language of the letter, as well as offer translations. The Muskie School is going to provide help in reducing the language level of the letter so that it is 7th grade accessible, which means both parent and child have a solid understanding of what the letter entails. The youth at Long Creek also revised the letter, and provided feedback as to what works in the letter and what doesn't.

Noël then stated that a lot of learning had taken place when working on increasing effective communication with the community, especially regarding the three substantial minority groups of Somalis, Congolese, and Sudanese. Noël reported that it worked best meeting with community leaders of these groups separately, instead of putting them together in one large group. Noël has already met with leaders of the Congolese community, and had very productive conversations regarding partnership.

Noël also reported that he and Kathryn are working on a grant application to the Viola Foundation to get funds to support Undoing Racism workshops, which

would also allow some local community members to be trained as trainers. A JJAG match has been considered if the grant is awarded to the JJAG.

Kathryn then reported that interviews and data collection had been done at three police departments, Portland, South Portland, and Westbrook, and that Muskie was finishing compiling the results. She said that the finished report should come out in late February or early March.

Noël said that sometime in the spring he is hoping to host a training about DMC strictly for police officers.

Noël then recommended that Pious Ali be awarded a \$2,500 grant to pay for his services to advise the Youth Advisory Council more often than it is meeting now. Pious is also a trained Seeds of Peace facilitator.

Motion: To fund Pious a 6 month \$2,500 grant to advise the Youth Advisory Council at Long Creek Youth Development Center

Moved: Christine/Dalene seconded

Action: Approved w/ one abstention (Barry Stoodley – DOC employee)

VII: Committee/Department Reports

Legislative Committee: Christine reported to the group that two bills had already gone through, and that several others were waiting to be voted on. The bills that had already gone through were LD1597 “An Act to Ensure Confidentiality of Juvenile Case Records” and LD 1599 “An Act to Amend Deferred Disposition Under the Maine Juvenile Code.” LD 1599 gained a unanimous ought to pass without conflict, but LD 1597 was more contentious. The Secretary of State agreed that it would be simple to remove a driving suspension from a juvenile’s record once the suspension had been served, which brought about a unanimous ought to pass.

LD 1727 “An Act to Ensure That the Public is Duly Informed When Certain Juvenile Crimes are Committed,” would allow the identity of juveniles to be made public at time of arrest if the juvenile is 16 years of age or older and charged with a crime that is normally open to public with adults. Christine asked the JJAG to vote to take an opposition position on the bill, considering its significance. Discussion followed amongst members.

Motion: To oppose LD 1727

Moved: Richard/Patrick seconded

Action: Passed w/ three abstentions (Barry Stoodley and Mark Boger, DOC employees; Sgt. Shapiro, Maine State Trooper)

LD 1756 would create a separate council regarding juveniles and the Interstate Compact, and it would require JJAG members to serve on that council.

Suggestion is to support.

Motion: To support LD 1756

Moved: Christine/No second needed

Action: Approved (unanimous)

Department of Corrections: Barry shared that Commissioner Ponte is very interested in expanding TARGET Training to adult corrections. There is also going to be some reentry program restructuring in the near future, due to many juveniles not succeeding, or recidivating, after being released. Barry stated that his goal, along with Commissioner Ponte's goal, is to have a zero rate of return for juveniles once they are released. Barry shared several trainings being discussed that might help towards that goal.

Office of Substance Abuse, Grants Committee: Jacinda stated that there needed to be a vote on the American Indian Tribal Pass-Through Funds, and that there were two applications for the grant, one from the Penobscot Nation and one from the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians. The Grants Committee, after review, voted to award the funds to the Penobscot Nation Boys & Girls Club. Jacinda suggested a vote of acceptance.

Christine asked about the Maliseet Indian's proposal, and Jacinda explained that their proposed program was not an evidence-based program, and did not have a lot of structure. Dalene asked what the total amount of funding available was, and Kathryn replied \$30,000.

Motion: To accept the Penobscot Nation's proposal for American Indian Tribal Pass-Through Funds of \$30,000

Moved: Jacinda/No second needed

Action: Passed (unanimous)

Department of Public Safety: Sgt. Shapiro stated he had found a receptive community in Old Orchard Beach for restorative justice/practices, and linking the middle school, Thornton Academy, and the Saco middle school with local police departments to work on restorative practices, and perhaps take more stress off the Zero Tolerance programs in place at the schools currently. Sgt. Shapiro shared that there are future meetings planned to further organize the details of the project. Sgt. Shapiro also announced that he had been contacted about developing a restorative practices institute for the entire state. He also stated that he was hoping that the JJAG could work on bringing restorative practices, DMC work, and the CPS project together, considering their similarities.

Department of Health & Human Services: Doug shared that Children's Behavioral Health sector had received an expansion grant that would hopefully bring more training to juvenile corrections, military families, and continued

work with the mental health providers. DHHS is also looking to expand existing evidence-based programs, and keep them sustainable and working. Doug discussed other trainings that are being looked into that would continue to support families and children in treatment and who need treatment. The futures of a lot of programs are still unclear, however, due to budget issues.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM.

The next meeting will take place on February 22, 2011 at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy.